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Letter dated 28 June 2000 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the report on the international security presence in Kosovo during the period 23 April to 22 May 2000.

I should be grateful if you would have this report brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Annex

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

1. Over the reporting period (23 April-22 May), there were approximately 45,500 Kosovo Force (KFOR) troops deployed in theatre, with no major deployment changes since the last report.

Security

2. Overall, the situation in Kosovo remains tense. Although the overall level of criminal activity continued to decrease over the reporting period, there was an increase in the level of ethnic violence and related crime, particularly against Kosovar Serbs in the Obilić, Kosovo Polje, Gnjilane, Mitrovica and Vitina areas. Houses were burned, and in Vitina (Multinational Brigade (MNB) (East)), violence culminated in the murder of a Kosovar Serb on 6 May. Later that day, in protest, Serbs held a demonstration, during which roads were blocked and rocks thrown at passing vehicles. The demonstration was closely monitored by KFOR troops and the crowd eventually dispersed late in the evening. On 20 May, in Gojbulja (MNB (North)), a Kosovar Serb was murdered, and two Kosovar Albanians were subsequently arrested for the crime.

3. The hunger strike by Serb and Roma detainees in the Mitrovica detention centre which began on 10 April in protest at the length of their pre-trial detention period, prompted daily demonstrations of support at the beginning of May, involving up to 700 people. KFOR troops monitored the situation. The hunger strike ended on 22 May following an intervention by the Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

4. One KFOR soldier was found dead in MNB (Centre) on 26 April, and an investigation into his death is continuing. Six KFOR troops were slightly injured on 29 April in Mitrovica, when a convoy of four KFOR lorries transporting Kosovar Albanians was blocked by a large number of Kosovar Serbs. The crowd subsequently dispersed. On 10 May, KFOR troops near Vrbovac in MNB (East), who were investigating an explosion in an abandoned house, were assaulted by a crowd of approximately 200 Kosovar Serbs. One KFOR soldier was slightly injured.

5. KFOR troops continued to uncover and confiscate caches of weapons, ammunition and explosives during house searches and traffic control checkpoints. Among the most significant finds were the discovery, on 10 May near Glogovac (MNB (Centre)), of 2 sagger missiles, 20 rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) warheads, 7 RPG launchers, a machine gun and ammunition during a house search. On 11 May in the village of Donje Obrijne (MNB (North)), KFOR troops uncovered a cache of weapons, including AK-47 rifles, hand grenades, detonators and ammunition. On 19 and 20 May, during cordon and search operations in Gnjilane (MNB (East)) and Pec (MNB (West)), the following items were confiscated: 13 rifles/shotguns, a quantity of C-4 explosive with detonation cord and two 150 gram blocks of trinitrotoluene (TNT), various rounds of ammunition and magazines, a 60 millimetre (mm) mortar, 1 M80 anti-tank rocket launcher, 9 hand grenades, 2 radio sets, 3 field phones, 1 cryptographic device and a 22 mm shell. Six Albanians were arrested.

Illegal border activity

6. KFOR troops continued to provide appropriate control of Kosovo's internal boundaries and external borders, and recognized crossing points. All but two of the recognized crossing points within each MNB into the ground safety zone (GSZ) remain closed. There were a number of incidents related to illegal border crossings over the reporting period, mostly at the border crossing point of Morina South (MNB (South)), where 16 people were prevented from illegally crossing into Kosovo. On 11 May, three people did succeed in illegally crossing the border. On 20 May, two men were arrested at the internal Federal Republic of Yugoslavia border with Montenegro after 57 rounds of 7.62 ammunition were discovered in their car. They were handed over to UNMIK police.

7. There were continued reports of paramilitary activities being conducted in and around Dobrosin in the GSZ, including, on 20 May, three explosions near Konculj in a suspected attack by the "Liberation Army of Presevo, Medvedja and Bujanovac" (UCPMB) on a Serbian Ministry of Internal Affairs Special Police (MUP) checkpoint.

Security Council resolution 1160 (1998) — arms embargo

8. Although KFOR operations continue to result in weapons seizures, no violations of Security Council resolution 1160 (1998) have been reported.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

9. The process of establishing the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) in accordance with its mandate continued throughout the reporting period. The first phase of specialist training was completed and the second phase, focusing on the practical skills required for basic civil emergency response, is under way. The number of work projects has steadily increased and mechanisms to coordinate these projects continue to improve.

10. Over the reporting period, there were several incidents of non-compliance involving KPC members carrying unauthorized weapons, conducting illegal police activities or engaging in threatening behaviour. There have also been reports of individual KPC members, and former Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) personnel portraying themselves as KPC, extorting money from local businesses in a number of towns in the province. KFOR has moved to discipline the non-compliant KPC members, some of whom have been suspended. KFOR, UNMIK, the UNMIK police and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) have increased their cooperation in order to address KPC non-compliance issues more effectively.

11. The Army of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (VJ) and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia security forces were generally compliant with the terms of the Military Technical Agreement (MTA) and continue to be cooperative in their dealings with KFOR.

Cooperation with international organizations

12. KFOR continued to provide assistance to international organizations and non-governmental organizations throughout Kosovo on a daily basis, on request, with a focus on the distribution of food and construction materials and on the protection and escort of refugees and internally displaced persons. KFOR also supported non-governmental organizations in providing assistance in a spring/summer housing and school reconstruction programme.

13. At the beginning of May, the UNMIK police force numbered 3,145, including 205 border police and 374 members of the Special Police Unit (SPU).

14. KFOR is to establish joint operations centres with UNMIK police at brigade and battalion levels, with the aim of fostering closer cooperation between both organizations. This should improve information exchange and ensure a more rapid reaction in case of incidents.

15. The fourth class of recruits graduated from the Kosovo Police Service School on 20 May, and the 219 cadets began patrolling throughout the province with UNMIK police officers.

16. KFOR continued to support UNMIK at all levels of the civil administration. At the provincial level, the Kosovo Transitional Council (KTC) continued to meet regularly. At the district level, KFOR continued to work closely with the appointed civil administrators, civil administration meetings having been attended by KFOR representatives.

Return of refugees and displaced persons

17. As of 18 May, the refugee repatriation programme organized by IOM and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had assisted 146,642 voluntary returns, primarily from third countries, and predominantly ethnic Albanians, including 3,318 returns from Montenegro. The predicted figure for the whole month of May was 12,300 returnees. KFOR continued to monitor refugee returns and to work closely with UNMIK, UNHCR and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to improve conditions for the Serb minorities in Orahovac, Velika Hoca and Djakovica. According to UNHCR, a large number of displaced persons from Kosovo still remain in Serbia and in Montenegro.

Outlook

18. Overall, tension can be expected to remain high in parts of Kosovo, inter-ethnic tension has the potential to involve KFOR personnel, as has already been the case in Mitrovica. KFOR will continue to work in close coordination with UNMIK to promote and maintain security and stability in the province.